



Understanding CEQA

What is CEQA?

The *California Environmental Quality Act* (CEQA) sets statewide policies that require both state and local agencies to consider the environmental consequences of their decisions. The goal of CEQA is to:

- Provide information about the environmental effects of the project.
- Prevent significant environmental damage and identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided.
- Disclose the basis for the decision of the project considering its environmental effects.

Why is an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) being prepared?

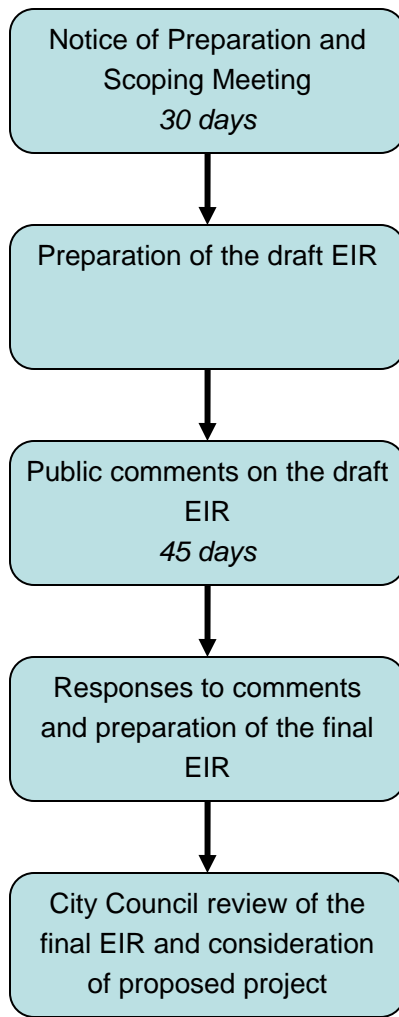
The City of San Diego determined that the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update could result in significant environmental effects. Environmental review is the evaluation process that CEQA requires public agencies to conduct before taking action to approve a project.

Environmental review is a set of procedures used to identify a project's potential impacts, develop ways to reduce those impacts, and report the results of the analysis to the public. When potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR is prepared. The EIR identifies methods (mitigation measures) for reducing or avoiding damage, and project alternatives which reduce or avoid adverse environmental effects.

The EIR will look at the community plan update as a whole. It will not evaluate detailed plans for individual parcels or developments within Barrio Logan. In the future, additional environmental review may be required when designs and plans are available for specific projects.

There are many environmental issues evaluated in an EIR. They are determined by community input, concerns of regulatory agencies, and experts at the City. They will include such issues as traffic, hazardous materials, air quality, noise, and public services. Your input can help determine the list of issues considered.

How do I get involved?



Similar to the Community Plan Update process, there are opportunities for public input. When the City circulates a *Notice of Preparation (NOP)*, the public and agencies will have *30 days* to respond to the NOP. Based on the current schedule, the City expects that the NOP will be available in May 2009. The NOP will be posted on the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update website, <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/barriologanupdate/index.shtml>. A public meeting will be held during the 30-day NOP review period for the City to get a detailed understanding of the environmental issues important to you. This is your chance to let us know about environmental concerns or issues you believe should be addressed in the EIR.

Once the Draft EIR is prepared, there is a *45 day* period for the public to review and submit comments.

What happens after the Public Review Period?

Responses are prepared for the comments received on the draft report. Based on the comments received, revisions to the EIR may be made. In addition to the responses, the City makes findings regarding environmental issues. These findings identify the measures needed to avoid impacts. In the case that an impact can not be avoided, they may prepare a

“statement of overriding considerations”. The responses, revised report, and findings comprise the Final EIR, which will be presented to the City Council. The City Council will discuss the EIR and hear from the public. Only then -- with full disclosure of the environmental impacts -- will the City decide on whether or not to move forward with the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update.

How can I learn more about CEQA?

Copies of the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines may be reviewed at local libraries. They are also available on the web, along with other useful information, at <http://ceres.ca.gov>.